

Few Steps Away

By Ali Haidar

The days were dark. The blue sky was completely blocked by black clouds. White snow covered the desert, making the ground shine. The cold weather was making it hard to breathe. As far as the eye could see, there was only snow.

A man with short hair and a clean shave, alone in the middle of the snow, was heading in one direction, wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Bare hands, and only one shoe on one foot. He was taking fast, long steps. The cold had turned his nose red. With wide eyes and an open mouth, he ran through the snow. His footsteps on the ground were visible from far away.

The man was following a light in this vast, empty land. He was just a few steps away from reaching it — but step after step, he couldn't get closer. At some point, he couldn't walk anymore. He couldn't even feel his body.

When the man finally stopped, the light came near to him and said,
“Just a few more steps. I am here with you.”

The man forced his hand upward and pointed toward the light. A tiny smile appeared on his face. He wasn't able to move, but he still tried to take a step toward it. His body didn't respond — and he fell into the snow.

Later...

The man opened his eyes. He was on a bed in a hospital. He looked around — everything seemed normal. Suddenly, a sparkling light floated past his eyes. His heartbeat quickened, loud enough to hear.

He removed the blanket from himself and followed the light all the way to the rooftop. The light floated just two steps away.

The light said,
“Come on. I'm in heaven. Just a few more steps, and we'll be together.”

The man smiled, took one step forward — and fell to the ground below.

The snow turned red with his blood. He died.

A nurse, standing near the body, asked another nurse,
“Who was this person?”

The other nurse replied,
“His name was Pain. A few months ago, his beloved wife died in a snowstorm. Since then, he's been seeing illusions, always saying that his wife is just a few steps away.”